

# Newsletter and Plan

December 2019 to February 2020



Looking towards the Howgills from Ravenstonedale Photograph taken by Elliot Crippen

**KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY  
& TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT**



***Cumbria District (09/07)***

‘Our mission is to know Jesus and make him known’

## From the Manse

The 'future' of the church.

Young people who go to church up and down the country are likely to share something in common with each other. I am referring to a phrase that I heard and you may have heard as a child 'you are the future of the church'. While most people understand the sentiment behind it, it does cause us to ask questions: When does the present become the future? Will there be a church if there is no young people? If there are young people, why aren't they the church today?

As a younger person I found myself scared about becoming a Christian because I thought it was a thing for adults, not seeing people around me my own age with a faith. When I felt a call to preach at 13, I thought this to be silly and put it off until I was a bit older. 'maybe in my 20's' I said to myself. The church in many ways was not something I thought of as for me. It was something for older people, but which I am allowed to play a part in. Christ tells us this is untrue, welcoming the children to himself when they were being turned away by the disciples. It was to these children the kingdom was for, in fact Jesus goes as far to say the approach of a child to the kingdom of God was necessary for people to take note of if anyone wanted to enter it.

Recently the Pope was doing a service, in a grand way as is often the case. A video emerged of this particular service which showed a child who had got onto the stage, was walking around, doing a bit of a dance and looking generally oblivious to what was going on around them, much to the shock of the Cardinals and Pope who were watching this. I am pleased to say the child was able to continue to exercise this freedom he had found, and the Pope used this to make a point about the freedom we do or do not experience in God's presence. The video is on the internet if you care to find it. This child preached to the congregation that day if they were willing to hear it and preached to the Pope. Children and young people have just as much right to be in our congregations as those who are older, a truth I sadly did not realise when I was younger.

But this may also cause us to be challenged and to question why on earth it is that we have less children coming to our church services? We might well feel upset that our culture is not like it was when we grew up, but the call of the church is to witness to the culture in which we find ourselves in, not the world as it was.

Last quarter Appleby did a family service following on from the kids club that happened. We had a number of families come to that who would not have otherwise come to church. The service looked different to both the regular attenders and the new people coming, which presented us with an opportunity. The opportunity was to learn from each other, sing songs which those who came to kids club knew, and then some songs those who came to church knew. To pray together, but realising we had learned to say Amen in different ways. We had a shorter service, recognising the attention of younger people isn't the same as older people, yet at the end we may have stayed longer chatting with each other and enjoying each other's company in the presence of God.

But this also provided us with a challenge, and I feel it is a challenge that we may find across our circuit. How do we invite people in to the worshipping congregation, when the whole experience is alien to them, and may even seem irrelevant to them? It calls us to reconsider our purpose as a church, and wonder whether our aims in worship match our practice. As we explored our mission plans which Stephen brought to the circuit to consider, we may well find ourselves challenged by what is written there, and cause us to rethink the ways we have got used to in the way we 'do' church. But this also offers us a moment to reconsider the purposes God has for this area which we serve in Christ's name.

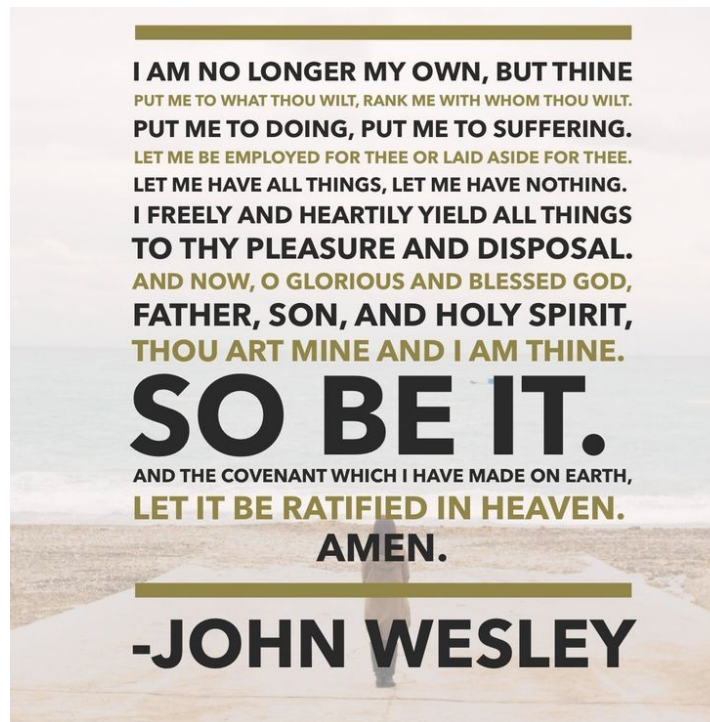
Rev Andrew Sterling



Luke Ch 18 verse 16. Jesus called the children to Him and said , ' let the little children come to me , and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these'

The annual Covenant service is the jewel in the crown of Methodist liturgy. It confirms our commitment to God and reminds us of the loving relationship which he already offers us. The Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept that relationship and seek to sustain it, both as the Church community and individual Christians. Each year, by sharing in the Covenant prayer, we offer our whole life to the service of God. Through the prayer we are neither requesting to be put to suffering nor laid aside, rather we are stating that we accept whatever God wants us to be, do or have in the service of his kingdom.

We warmly invite you to join us at the Covenant services being held in our Circuit – please see the Plan for details of where these services will be taking place.



“Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me. “

Charles Wesley

Philippians 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. “

**Bible Study/House Groups take place in a number of our churches.**

We have listed a few of these below, if you would like more details then please contact the person named for each church.

**Appleby housegroup** – every other Thursday at 7.30pm – contact Linda 017683 53448

**Appleby housegroup** – weekly on Thursday at 10 am – contact Jean or Tony 017683 51706

**Brough Sowerby** – We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings during the winter months. Details are available from David 017683 41223

**Crosby Garrett/Soulby** – there is an interdenominational monthly group which meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Soulby Village Hall.

**Dufton** – for details of the Bible Studies please contact Avril 017683 53102 or Wendy 017683 52865

**Great Asby** – Fellowship Group meeting fortnightly for ecumenical Bible study/discussion on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in term time. Contact Pat or John Bevan 017683 53433 for details/programme.

**Newbiggin on Lune** – Tuesday at 7.30 pm. The venues each week will be shared amongst those willing and able to host them. They will be held fortnightly. All are very welcome.

**Orton** – a Bible study is held fortnightly on a Thursday in the Autumn/Winter months. Please contact Rowland for further details 015396 24372



John Ch 17 v 17 'Sanctify them by the Truth your word is truth.'  
2 Tim 3 v 16 & 17 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'

We are encouraged to read Gods word daily and let it speak to us .

**Chairman of the District**

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**Circuit Stewards**

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**Circuit Property Steward**

MR BERNARD THORNBORROW

Bentling, Mount Pleasant, Tebay CA10 3TH Tel: 015396 24272

Email thornborrowtebay@talktalk.net

**Staff Rest Days****Ministers**

Rev Stephen Radford

Friday

Rev Andrew Sterling

Monday (Rest day)

Wednesday (Study day)

**Circuit Administrator**

Mrs Avril Swinbank

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

**Circuit Connexion Services**

December No service

January Kirkby Stephen-Accreditation service for Penny Hilland as a Local Preacher

February To be confirmed

**Website Addresses**

Circuit Website

[www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk](http://www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk)

Methodist Church Website

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

Cumbria District Methodist Website

[www.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk)

If you are on Facebook please "Like" our Kirkby Stephen, Appleby & Tebay Methodist Circuit page and keep up to date with our latest news!



## Dementia Prayer

### I Talked to a Lady, by Tanya Howden

I talked to a lady yesterday  
She didn't know my name  
She was amazed to hear about my past  
and the places I had been  
Her daughter's life so similar  
filled her with awe and fear  
She looked at me bewildered  
could this really be real?

We talked about her family  
We talked about her past  
We talked about the folk she'd known  
Their walk their talk their cheer  
The ones who floated through her world  
And those who stopped to share  
We talked about the future  
her hopes her dreams her fears

We talked about her sorrows  
All the sadness life threw in  
We talked about her children –  
(Some things I shouldn't hear!)  
We giggled and cried and laughed  
at a life so rich so full  
And in a moment shared  
sat in silence with our thoughts ...  
And I whispered "Goodnight Mother"  
as her eyes succumbed to dreams



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Memory Clubs are held at  
Kirkby Stephen and at Brough

Please pray for those living with Dementia and also  
those who care for them.





Matt Ch. 2 – v 11a

‘On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped Him.’

As we draw towards Christmas through Advent God invites us to pray to Him for unity.

Incarnate Christ be born in us all anew, bring us to the throne of Grace through the child of Christmas – Jesus Christ.  
And may faith be reborn in Jesus name this Christmas . Amen.

Cradled in a manger

Happy all who hear the message  
of His coming from above;  
Happier still who hail His coming,  
and with praises greet His love.  
Blessed Saviour, Christ most holy,  
in a manger Thou didst rest;  
Canst Thou stoop again, yet lower,  
and abide within my breast ?

And to those who never listened  
to the message of Thy birth,  
Who have winter, but no Christmas  
Bringing them thy peace on earth,  
Send to these the joyful tidings;  
by all people, in each home,  
Be there heard the Christmas anthem;  
Praise to God, the Christ has come!

Author: George Stringer Rowe

## Lectionary

- 1<sup>st</sup> December Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44
- 8<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
- 15<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 5-10 or Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) James 5: 7-10  
Matthew 11: 2-11
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25
- 29<sup>th</sup> December Isaiah 63: 7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2: 10-18 Matthew 2: 13-23
- 5<sup>th</sup> January Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Psalm 147: 12-20 Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: (1-9) 10-18 or  
Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-12 Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 10: 15-21 Ephesians 1: 3-  
14 John 1: (1-9) 10-18
- 12<sup>th</sup> January Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3: 13-17
- 19<sup>th</sup> January Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 40: 1-11 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John 1: 29-42
- 26<sup>th</sup> January Isaiah 9: 1-4 Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 Matthew 4: 12-23
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February Micah 6: 1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12
- 9<sup>th</sup> February Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112: 1-9 (10) 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5: 13-  
20
- 16<sup>th</sup> February Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 or Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20 Psalm 119: 1-8 1 Corinthians  
3: 1-9
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February Exodus 24: 12-18 Psalm 2 OR Psalm 99 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9



# Circuit Calendar

## November

30th 12-1.30 p.m. K Stephen –Soup and Sweet

## December

TBC 7.00 p.m. K Stephen -Light up a Life service for Hospice and Jigsaw  
7<sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m. Tebay – Christmas Fair  
11th 7.30 p.m. K Stephen -Candlelight Service  
13<sup>th</sup> 6.30 p.m. Tebay – Lighting of Christmas Tree  
18th 7.00 p.m. Carols in the Mart at Kirkby Stephen Auction Mart  
24<sup>th</sup> 6.00 p.m. Christmas Eve service for all the family at Dufton  
24<sup>th</sup> 10.00 p.m. Christmas Eve service at Kirkby Stephen  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.00 a.m. United Christmas Day service at Kirkby Stephen Baptist Church  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day service at Tebay

## January

4th 10.00-11.30 K Stephen –Coffee Morning  
8th 6.45 p.m. Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen  
15th 6.45 p.m. Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen  
25th 7.30 p.m. Warcop-New Year Festival – The Lund Young People

## February

1st 10.00-11.30 K Stephen –Coffee Morning  
5th 6.45 p.m. Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen  
8th 10.00-12.00 Dufton Chapel Anniversary—Coffee Morning  
19th 6.45 p.m. Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen

**“Hub Club” - Alternate Thursdays** during term time, 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m. at Kirkby Stephen  
**“Ignite”** – a Bible Study/Discussion Group held at the home of Jonny and Debra Capstick for Year 12 and upwards. For more details please contact Jonny and Debra 015396 23141  
**“Valley Youth”** - Worship group and speaker, followed by toast, age 13+  
**4th Saturday monthly 7.30 p.m.** (except July, August, December) at Crosby Ravensworth

Please pray for our young people at schools, our youth and children's work and those who lead it. For the Sunday Schools at Orton, Kirkby Stephen, Newbiggin on Lune, Appleby and Winton.



## PRAYER POINTS

**'More things are wrought through prayer  
than this world dreams of'**

Jesus Lord and Master, who served your disciples in washing their feet; serve me daily in washing my motives, my ambitions, my actions; that I may serve with you in your mission to this world.

O Lord, give us gentle spirits and true humility.  
Give us quiet minds and forgive us for angry words  
and thoughtless conversations.

Forgive us for desiring praise and wanting to be thought more of than others,  
for pushing our own agendas and for failing to listen, and take on board the ideas  
of other people.

We are sorry, Lord for the times that we have been lacking in kindness  
and for failing to go the extra mile.  
Please forgive us for we are truly sorry.

'Father, we pray for a spirit of reconciliation to sweep through this land. Some of the greatest minds of our time have grappled with all the difficulties of the present situation, it seems sometimes that wisdom is not within our grasp. Lord, with the best will in the world we cannot know the future but we know that you do because you know all things. You have the wisdom for which we crave.

Lord fill our hearts and minds with everything that means.

Help us to be clear-headed and open-minded, open to you and open to understanding what it means to bring hope and justice to your people. Help us to be ready, at any moment, to show kindness, compassion and common sense. Help each of us to be fully prepared to offer food, shelter, clothing or money wherever and whenever they are needed and help us to be sensitive to the need for spiritual and emotional comfort.

Lord in the coming days and weeks, help us to slow down,  
to soak ourselves daily in your presence.

Help us to take time to fully live each moment, rejoice in your blessings  
and to better know one another and this precious planet.

John Ch. 17 verses 20 & 21. 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you'